



Office of U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt

Washington's 5th District

223 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2002

Contact: April Gentry

(202) 225-2006

MRI project takes shape: Leaders chosen, deadline set

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt (R-Wash.) said today that an initiative to start a Medical Research Institute in Spokane is taking shape.

“We’ve taken some critical steps since our August meeting to get this project off the ground,” Nethercutt said. “There is a steering committee in place, and we have deadlines for creating an action plan that we can begin implementing in January. This initiative is taking shape.”

On Aug. 27, Nethercutt called together top researchers, NIH officials, educators and professionals in Spokane to set forth steps to boost medical research in the Inland Northwest, especially the creation of a Medical Research Institute. Attendees included representatives of the National Institutes of Health, the Heart Institute of Spokane, Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, Whitworth College, University of Washington, Inland Northwest Health Services, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce, INTEC, SIRTl and the Spokane Medical Society.

The steering committee will be chaired by Tony Bonanzino of Hollister-Stier. Other steering committee members include: Dr. John Coombs, University of Washington, Dr. Lane Rawlins, Washington State University, Dr. Stephen Jordan, Eastern Washington University, Dr. Bill Robinson, Whitworth College, Lewis Rumpler, INTEC, Rich Hadley, Spokane Chamber of Commerce, and Tom Fritz, Inland Northwest Health Services.

The steering committee will meet by Oct. 31 to prepare a specific mission and plans to accomplish the mission. The larger group will reconvene between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15 to discuss the plans. By Jan. 1, the group hopes to begin implementing the plan.

“I believe we can develop a world-class center focusing on research and clinical trials in our region that will attract scientists, researchers, jobs and economic development,” Nethercutt said. “We have set ambitious, but attainable goals, and I believe we have a team in place that can bring this vision to reality.”

###